

Medical Response

The Westfield Fire Department has been responding to accidents and medical emergencies for decades; however many citizens are still puzzled about the critical role firefighters play in such situations.

A common perception is that a firefighter's primary tools are a fire hose and ax. The reality is that Westfield firefighters are equally familiar with administering an electric shock and drugs to restart a heart, inserting a breathing tube, or extricating an accident victim from a crushed vehicle while simultaneously treating their injuries. In fact, 70% of our calls are for medical emergencies.

The fire department also staffs two 24/7 ALS Ambulances and provides transport services to local area hospitals.

Timing

When a heart stops, or a serious injury occurs; seconds count. Fire Stations in Westfield are strategically located in order to respond quickly for fires and medical emergencies.

Additionally, more serious medical emergencies require a full team of responders. Consider cardiac arrest; while two people perform CPR, others establish IVs, set up a heart monitor, administer drugs, and bring a gurney to the patient's side for transport. This is why you may see more than one fire department apparatus on a medical incident.

Emergency Medical Services

The Westfield Fire Department has always taken its role in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as seriously as its commitment to firefighting. Every uniformed member of our department is a certified emergency medical technician (EMT) and nearly 20% are certified paramedics. All paramedics at Westfield Fire Department are certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS). EMS hospital affiliation is provided Indiana University Health, Ball Memorial Hospital with Medical Director Jan Kornilow, M.D. FACEP FAAEM overseeing the program.



Be Aware

The next time you see a fire engine responding to an incident, look at the firefighters in the cab. If they're wearing their heavy fire gear, they're going to a fire. If they are in shirtsleeves, it's a safe bet they are headed for a medical emergency.